



Volunteer Chelsea Sauvé page 10

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## Sarah Niemoeller to deliver Yom Hashoah keynote address

By Michael Regenstreif

With the Nazis in power in the years leading up to the Second World War, membership in the Hitler Youth brigades was mandatory for so-called *Aryan* teenagers living in Germany.

One young student who refused to join was Sibylla Augusta Sophia Baroness von Sell, a member of an aristocratic Prussian family which, early on, recognized the evil essence of Nazism.

The von Sell family was highly engaged in anti-Nazi activity. They helped run an underground

railroad dedicated to saving Jews from deportation to concentration and death camps and were involved in the July 20, 1944 plot to kill Hitler.

That young student, who did not graduate from high school because she would not be part of Hitler Youth, is now 86 years old and known as Sarah Niemoeller. She will be the keynote speaker at the Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony when the Ottawa Jewish community marks Yom HaShoah on April 20.

Niemoeller spoke with the  
(Continued on page 2)



A pair of Queen Esthers at the Ganon Preschool Purim Carnival March 6. See pages 14-15 for more pictures from Ottawa Purim celebrations.

## Community united in prayer for Terry Schwarfeld

Members of Ottawa's Jewish community and countless others across the country, including the membership of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO (CHW), have been united in thoughts and prayers for Terry Schwarfeld this month since the news spread that she had been knocked unconscious and critically injured in an attempted robbery February 28 while in Barbados on a family vacation.

Schwarfeld was airlifted back to Ottawa March 4 and has

remained in a coma at Ottawa Hospital.

Schwarfeld, 60, a longtime CHW officer in Ottawa and at the national level, was recently acclaimed national president of the Jewish women's organization and began her three-year term at the CHW convention November 18 in Calgary.

Schwarfeld and her daughter-in-law, Luana Cotsman of Guelph, Ontario were on an afternoon walk on Long Beach near their vacation condo when

they were accosted by a man demanding money.

When told they had nothing to give him, the robber assaulted them with a piece of wood. Both women were knocked unconscious in the attack.

Luana regained consciousness while still on the beach and found her mother-in-law there. The younger woman was treated in hospital in Barbados and released the next day. Her condition has continued to improve.

Stephen Cotsman, Schwarfeld's husband of 37 years, met with reporters March 7 to explain the gravity of her condition. "We know there is significant brain damage," he said. "The prognosis is not good."

The couple has three sons, David, Luana's husband, Adam and Simon, and a one-year-old grandson, Benjamin.

The family, said Cotsman, has received much comfort from the outpouring of support from the community in the face of this heartbreaking tragedy.



Terry Schwarfeld

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## Sarah Niemoeller's path led her to Judaism

(Continued from page 1)

*Bulletin* recently from her home in Philadelphia.

"My life was never normal," she said, recalling a childhood and young adulthood spent opposing the Nazis at a time when her country was firmly under the control of Hitler's regime.

"My parents made up their minds early on to oppose the Nazis," she said.

The family's engagement in anti-Nazi activity always put them at risk in the repressive dictatorship. Gestapo raids on the von Sell home were not unusual.

"Everything the Nazis said was the law. Living was dangerous. Just listening to the BBC or Voice of America was dangerous."

She was taught early on to always reset the radio to a German station after listening to those broadcasts in case there was a visit from the Gestapo.

The plot involving members of her family to kill Hitler and remove the Nazis from power – one of 40 assassination attempts the dictator survived – was dramatized in the 2008 film *Valkyrie*. Her cousin, Werner von Haeften, helped Claus von Stauffenberg plant the bomb in the room where Hitler would be holding a meeting.

Werner von Haeften and von Stauffenberg were among those quickly executed for their roles in the plot. Niemoeller's father, Baron Ulrich von Sell was imprisoned and she was arrested and beaten, but released.

"I'm not going to see it," she said when asked about the film. "There were too many mistakes in the story. They didn't ask [for input from] the people who were there."

Still, she added, she'd encourage others to see the movie in order to get a sense of what was happening at the time.

After the war, Niemoeller moved to the United States and worked at NBC where she met her first husband.

In 1968, she read that Reverend Martin Niemoeller would be speaking in Brooklyn.

When she was a child, Reverend Niemoeller had been the von Sell's family pastor. He was a Lutheran minister who quickly came to understand the nature of Nazism and founded the anti-Nazi Confessing Church in 1933. Arrested by the Nazis in 1937, the minister spent a year in prison and then seven more years in the Sachsenhausen and Dachau concentration camps. Reverend Niemoeller is most remembered for a poem he recited during speeches he made after the war:

*When the Nazis came for the communists, I remained silent; I was not a communist.*

*When they lacked up the social democrats, I remained silent; I was not a social democrat.*

*When they came for the trade unionists, I did not speak out; I was not a trade unionist.*

*When they came for the Jews, I*

*remained silent; I was not a Jew.*

*When they came for me, there was no one left to speak out.*

She went to see the pastor in Brooklyn and was instantly recognized by him, despite the 31 years since their last meeting. Her first marriage had ended by then and she was a widow. A romance with the much older clergyman ensued and they were wed. She returned to Germany with him and lived in Wiesbaden near the American Air Force base where she worked for the Red Cross.

Appalled by the Lutheran Church's inaction in Germany during the Nazi era, Niemoeller had left the church at the age of 18. Decades later, married to a clergyman and despite what she describes as her husband's "personal relationship with Christ," she found she couldn't return to the religion.

After her husband passed away in 1984, Niemoeller began her own spiritual quest. In 1990,

under the guidance of Rabbi Albert Friedlander at the Westminster Synagogue in London, she converted to Judaism at the age of 67.

It was on her conversion that she adopted 'Sarah' as her new first name.

Encouraged by Elie Wiesel, Niemoeller has become a renowned Holocaust educator who talks to audiences about her and her family's experiences resisting Nazism and fighting to save Jews from the Holocaust, and about the experiences of Reverend Niemoeller as Germany's most significant anti-Nazi religious figure.

Niemoeller stressed how much she was looking forward to speaking in Ottawa and meeting the community here.

The *Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony* will take place Monday, April 20, 7:00 pm, at the Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadolny Sachs



Sarah Niemoeller

Private, and is organized by the Shoah (Holocaust) Committee of Ottawa, a committee of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. For information, call 613-798-9818, ext. 276.

## Mailbag

### Israeli Apartheid Week at uOttawa

I toured the site of the so-called Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) at the University of Ottawa (uOttawa) on March 3 and came away with a healthy respect for well-presented freedom of speech. I am not sure if the University Centre administration was responsible for the understated presentation of this event, but there was nothing that assaulted the eyes or ears of the public.

Actually, the effect on the viewer was rather pathetic. The exhibition consisted of several panels with photos of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that were not offensive to me. It was manned by a quiet, young Canadian student, a member of Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights, who wanted to give us some information on the Palestinian cause. When asked if she had been to Israel and could comment with personal insight, she grimaced and said she would never go there.

The only other info was on a poster, too

dark to read clearly, mentioning the five speakers who would participate in evening lectures at various venues including Carleton, uOttawa and Library and Archives Canada. Of great irony was the lecture, *Boycott Israel*, which was presented in the Azrieli Theatre at Carleton, a building endowed by the Israeli-Canadian David Azrieli.

The poster that was deemed banned by both universities – the Israeli helicopter sending a missile directly at a child holding a teddy bear – was nowhere in sight.

For me, the offensive aspect of the Israeli Apartheid Week was the list of 25 support groups including CUPE Ontario, OPIRG-GRIPPO (Ottawa), Carleton University New Democrats, Raging Grannies, Queer Women of Colour and Jewish Voices Opposing Zionism.

Otherwise, uOttawa has succeeded in diminishing this odious exercise to a rather pathetic display. However, as more people are aware of it and speak out, my hope is that it will disappear completely in the future.

By the way, at the same time as the IAW display, there were other tables in the University Centre promoting Christians Outreach Program, CHUO uOttawa Radio and healthy eating. The NO to Racism table had some handouts, including pins that said "NO to Islamophobia, NO to anti-Semitism, NO to racism." I am wearing that pin right now.

Evelyn Greenberg

### Shalom Bayit seder for women

It's women's seder time again. The rate at which eager participants are signing up promises another capacity crowd.

I relish this event for many reasons: the shared readings of Haggadah, the gourmet meal and, particularly, the classic example, in our Jewish community, of unity in diversity.

Many thanks to Jewish Family Services for a venture of resounding success.

Pearl Greenberg

*Editor's note: See the article on page 5 for information about the Shalom Bayit seder for women.*

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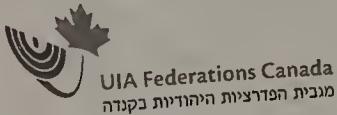


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"... Bridging Heaven and Earth ..." Zohar



Dear Friends,

What do you really know about UIAFC? I can simplify the answer for you as follows: Support for Israel, advocacy, leadership development and Jewish identity--these are the 4 pillars upon which UIAFC is anchored.

#### UIAFC REPRESENTS YOU IN ISRAEL

UIAFC is the national organization of the Canadian federations, actively engaged in representing Canadian Jewry in Canada, in Israel and Overseas. Working in partnership with the Canadian federations, UIAFC ensures that funds raised in our local communities are invested wisely and strategically in Israel. Through our operations in Jerusalem, we maintain relationships with NGO's, Israeli philanthropists and government departments. And when you travel on a mission to Israel, UIAFC provides a first rate educational experience that enables you to understand the issues and the good work that is accomplished.

UIAFC is involved in all 3 Canadian partnership regions managing the living bridge educational and people to people programs and contributing to the many facets of regional development. Ottawa is a member of the coast to coast coalition and as such participates in the developments of the Galilee Panhandle region. This region continues to benefit directly from the funds raised in the 2006 Israel emergency campaign

#### UIAFC HELPS CANADIAN COMMUNITIES LOOK AND PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

UIAFC in its national role is well placed to help communities plan for the future. Our focus is on developing the next generation of volunteer and professional leadership and instilling them with a strong Jewish identity and commitment to community. A demographic task force has been struck that is identifying future population and social trends that will guide and inform our communal organizations.

#### UIAFC RESPONDS TO CRISIS

UIAFC has played an important role in Israel's historical milestones, achievements and crises. During the recent Gaza campaign, UIAFC was involved in supporting the citizens of Sderot and Be'er Sheva through the provision of trauma relief services, recreational services for children, and through the provision of computers to children who were out of school during the operation. UIAFC was also instrumental in coordinating solidarity rallies all across the country creating a unified voice for Canadian Jewry.

#### UIAFC, THROUGH CIJA, IS ACTIVE WHERE ADVOCACY NEEDS ARE PRESENT

UIAFC, through its advocacy agent, CIJA, is engaged in advocating on behalf of issues that demand change in behavior, in policy, or in attitude. Actions are undertaken by Canada Israel Committee (CIC), Canadian Jewish Congress(CJC), National Jewish Campus Life (NJCL) and University Outreach Committee (UOC) Post operation GAZA has intensified anti Israel and anti Semitic sentiment evident in many environments but none more toxic and alarming than our university campuses. CIJA and local Jewish student organizations have collaborated to equip students with materials, strategies and support. They have also worked with university leadership to ensure that universities apply internal standards and provide safe, productive learning and social environments for all students.

#### UIAFC IS YOUR NATIONAL ORGANIZATION. IT REPRESENTS YOU IN CANADA, IN ISRAEL AND AROUND THE WORLD

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## Shalom Bayit women's seder:

# Educating our community about domestic violence issues

By Sarah Caspi  
Jewish Family Services

"This seder is dedicated to all women who have suffered partner abuse. At this special evening, we sadly remember those women who did not survive."

So begins the Haggadah developed specifically for the annual women's seder presented by the Jewish Family Services (JFS) Shalom Bayit program, to be held this year April 2.

The Shalom Bayit seder allows women the opportunity to learn more about domestic violence, in the community-at-large and, particularly, within the Jewish community. The seder, led by Yaffa Greenbaum, is beautiful and meaningful and women from all walks of life come together each year to share the experience. Please consider joining us.

The JFS Shalom Bayit program offers confidential counselling to Jewish women who have been abused physically or emotionally, whether they remain with their partners, have left them or are considering leaving sometime in the future. This year, we have seen an increase in women seeking our services.

Clients come to Shalom Bayit in a variety of ways. Some are referred from other JFS programs while others are referred by community partners, both Jewish and non-Jewish. The majority, though, are women who call or e-mail directly to ask for help.

We know, however, that there are many women in our community who have not yet come for help. Perhaps they are not aware of our services, so it is essential that we continue to promote our program.

We are all aware of the current financial crisis, the impact it has on people's lives, as well as its potential for increasing family stress. We know of women, having left abusive relationships, who are just making it fi-

nancially and who are now concerned about their job security. We are also aware that, with the increase in stress, there is the potential for increased violence and abuse in homes. On average, Jewish women stay in abusive relationships seven years longer than other women. Financial concern has been cited as one of the reasons it is so difficult to leave.

More than ever, we need to increase our visibility so that women know there is a place to go. Along with counselling offered free of charge to women who are in abusive relationships, the JFS Shalom Bayit program will try to offset some financial costs to clients when possible. We work closely with other agencies in the city involved in domestic violence issues and we help women connect with transitional workers and support groups, both for themselves and their children.

The Shalom Bayit women's seder is our main fundraising venture. This year, the seder will have a new feature: a silent auction of seder plates created by local Jewish artists. Twelve talented women have donated their time and artistic abilities to create these unique seder plates. We hope these plates will help us to raise needed funds as well as help to create dialogue at Passover seders throughout Ottawa.

The Fourth Annual Shalom Bayit Seder will take place April 2, 6:00 pm, at Agudath Israel Congregation. The silent auction begins at 5:30. Call JFS at 613-722-2225 to purchase tickets.

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, call Shalom Bayit at 613-722-2225, ext. 246 or [scaspi@jfsottawa.com](mailto:scaspi@jfsottawa.com). We are here to help. Remember: It's not your fault. It's not OK. You're not alone.

We also have a variety of resource materials including pamphlets, posters and bookmarks. Call or e-mail for more information.

## Reform movement urges halt to settlement growth

WASHINGTON (JTA) – The Reform movement said the new Israeli government must stop the expansion of settlements.

"We hope that the new Israeli government will work with the new U.S. administration to advance the cause of peace," Rabbi David Saperstein, the director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, said in a statement. "Israel must demonstrate its stated commitment to that goal by ending the expansion of settlements in accordance with prior commitments made to the United States government."

The call for the halt to settlement growth is a reiteration of a policy the Reform movement has held for a number of years. It most recently reaffirmed that view in 2004.

The movement also welcomed the "determined leadership" of U.S. President Barack

Obama, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and special Middle East envoy George Mitchell "in working toward the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict," adding that "the greatest contribution the United States can make to help Israel is to help it move beyond the deadly status quo toward the establishment of a just and lasting peace with the Palestinians."

The statement also applauded Clinton's call for an end to the continuing rocket fire from Gaza and called on the administration to bring about the release of Israeli soldier Gilad Schalit, who was kidnapped by Hamas almost three years ago. It also backed the \$900 million in aid the American administration has pledged to help rebuild Gaza, with the condition that none will go to Hamas.

# YOM HASHOAH COMMEMORATION

**Keynote Speaker: Sarah Niemoeller, Baroness von Sell**

*Mrs. Niemoeller's late husband Martin, a Lutheran pastor, led the clerical resistance against Hitler.*

*Her father and two cousins were tortured and executed for their roles in an aborted plot to kill Hitler.*



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## Summer camp is a truly great experience

I am the chair of Camp B'nai Brith of Ottawa (CBB). For me, it's almost always summertime as we plan and prepare our camp for another year of new friendships and lasting memories.

For some, summer is cottage time. I am not a *cottage person*. For me, summer will always be time for CBB. I spent every summer, from eight to 15, attending CBB. Then I worked there until I was 24, from counsellor to assistant director. Every summer, CBB was my home and I loved every minute of it. I only left because law school was over and I had no choice but to *grow up* and enter the *real world*.

Summer camp is one of the truly great experiences a child can have. Imagine a world filled with sunshine, sailing and silliness, an ongoing sleepover with your friends night after night after night. A world of "no more school, no more books, no more teachers' dirty looks." A world where the rules are less constraining than the rest of the year, where having fun is the primary rule.

Jewish summer camps have all of that, and more. They're an environment of friendships, laughter and life lessons that encourage our kids to become, and remain,



### Federation Report

**Michael Polowin**  
Camp B'nai Brith

affiliated with our community. Studies show that sleep-away camp is one of the single most effective methods of promoting affiliation. Because of that, the Foundation for Jewish Camping has seen fit to bring its campership incentive program to Ottawa. With the help of some generous donors and the Federation, we are very excited to announce that grants of \$1,000 per new CBB camper will be available for kids staying 3 1/2 weeks or more if it is their first Jewish immersive experience (that is to say, they do not attend a Jewish day school and have never attended a Jewish summer camp). In combination with our first-time camper discounts, CBB, which has always offered real value, is even more affordable.

Kids at CBB learn how to do a huge variety of things in an atmosphere where they usually don't even know they are

learning. Growing up in a world with fewer indoor pools, and far fewer programmed activities for kids, CBB was where I learned to swim, play football, paddle canoe, ride a horse, play tennis and do tile mosaics.

It's a world of first camping trips, first loves and, sometimes, first jobs. It's even a world where kids voluntarily go without electronics, and the games are not even missed.

But CBB is about far more than just the activities. It's about learning how to live with and respect campers. It's about learning about oneself and becoming independent. And it's about making lifelong friendships. For me, and for most of the people who have ever attended CBB, the connection never really leaves and is easy to see.

The connection former campers feel is plain to see. Three years ago, we had the first real reunion for our camp in many years. Three hundred people, from their 20s to their 70s, descended on CBB on a beautiful June weekend.

The reaction of those former campers was a sight to behold. They walked down the camp's main road with tears in their eyes. Friends, unseen for decades, were quickly hugging and kissing. For a brief,

shining moment, hair grew back, tummies shrank and grey hair changed back to brown. We were all 18 again, and nothing had changed. Next year, we're going to do it all again, to celebrate the 75th summer of CBB.

Today there is a huge variety of camps to choose from. Some concentrate on certain skills, some offer specific cultural or religious experiences, some are luxurious and some are rustic. For parents thinking of summer camp opportunities for their children, the decision can be overwhelming, yet extremely rewarding for both parents and children.

Sending your child off for a few weeks can be hard, but the learning and experiences your child will have cannot be duplicated. In a world where kids don't *go out and play* anymore, it's the closest thing to comfort in a world of over-programming that you and your child will find.

Where're the marshmallows? I have a mind to make a bonfire.

*Michael Polowin is an unrepentant camper who practises municipal and commercial real property law when he isn't being chair of CBB. E-mail: board@ccbottawa.com.*

## Hatred and destruction must be removed from the equation

In the past few months, we have been witness to a megadose of Israel bashing from foreign governments, academic institutions, unions, student groups, etc.

Thankfully, there have also been those who have stood up for Israel, including many Canadian parliamentarians and, most notably, the Canadian Government.

A little while ago, I was privileged to lead a significant Canadian Jewish Congress delegation to the World Jewish Congress (WJC) gathering in Jerusalem. The issue of Durban II was front and centre at the conference. What a thrill and source of pride it was for me to tell the international delegates that our country, Canada, was the first to pull out of the Durban II hate-fest, even before Israel. And Canada was the only country to vote against a UN Human Rights Commission anti-Israel resolution.

It is important for us to appreciate how fortunate we are in Canada. At that WJC conference, we heard horrible stories of Jewish communities under siege, with governments actually stirring up anti-Jewish sentiment, and boycotts of Jewish stores being urged.

Back to Canada. I have recently heard criticisms that the Canadian Government is too pro-Israel, that it is not balanced. After all, in any dispute, there are always two sides and it is important to be fair.

There are a few observations I share with you on this matter. One is the simple reality that, although every argument has at least two sides, this does not preclude the possibility that one side is wrong. Simply because someone feels justified in his or her claim does not mean he or she is legally or ethically



### From the pulpit

**Rabbi**  
**Reuven P. Bulka**  
**Machzikei Hadass**

ly correct. Feelings are just that – feelings.

The fact that someone feels he or she should have the iPod belonging to someone else does not mean that he or she is entitled to that iPod.

More to the point is the specific situation of Israel. Anyone who has followed the story and history of Israel, from ancient times to the present, knows that we have endured countless attempts to wipe us off the map and eliminate us from the historical discourse.

That is ancient history, recent history, and present reality. As we speak, Israel is caught between Katyusha rockets coming from the north and Kassam rockets coming from the south, and the clear and present danger of a nuclear invasion from the east.

What the groups attacking Israel on all fronts have in common is a maniacal hate of Israel that is hard for any decent person to understand. It is a hatred so venomous that nothing short of completely eliminating Israel will satisfy them.

Yes, not everyone on the anti-Israel side is so full of hatred unto death, but it remains the inescapable fact that this death-rattle hatred has not been categorically renounced by those who want to negotiate with Israel. And

the spillover of hate has not been checked at the door with principled rejection by those in leadership positions in countries the world over.

Hence, an explosion of hate, the likes of which we have not seen in decades, reaching even the friendly confines of Canada. Here, it translates into ugly expression, repulsive verbal assault up to and including 'Death to the Jews,' which has found its way to all sorts of venues, ranging from Parliament Hill to university campuses.

There is no balance in this dispute. On one side is an almost desperate search for peace. On the other is an unrelenting com-

mitment to destroy Israel and to vilify anyone and everyone who supports Israel.

Territorial dispute is one thing. Refusal to acknowledge the right to exist coupled with an unbending commitment to destroy Israel, is quite another.

With this type of imbalance, there is no room for *balance*. Hatred and destruction must be removed from the equation before we can even begin thinking of balance.

Right now, we are in between Purim and Pesach. Both holidays celebrate redemption from attempts to destroy Israel. Let's hope we will have similar reason to celebrate in the not too distant future. .



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Canada

# Isn't it ironic: Boycott Israel event at Azrieli Theatre

In her letter to the editor (page 2) about the recent Israeli Apartheid Week (IAW) events in Ottawa, Evelyn Greenberg notes how ironic it is that the IAW lecture on boycotting Israel was held in Carleton University's Azrieli Theatre, a facility endowed by and named for David J. Azrieli, an Israeli-Canadian businessman, architect and philanthropist, and a past-president of the Canadian Zionist Federation.

Azrieli was born in Poland in 1922 and was 17 when the Second World War broke out. He managed to escape from Poland and made his way through Russia and Central Asia before arriving in Palestine in 1942. He served in the Israel Defense Forces, fought during the 1948 War of Independence and studied architecture at Technion in Haifa before coming to Canada in 1954.

In addition to his business activities in Canada, Azrieli has been one of Israel's most prominent developers. He built Israel's first enclosed shopping mall and the massive Azrieli Center in Tel Aviv bears his name.

You'd think that IAW organizers would have wanted to avoid the symbolism of holding an event specifically aimed at furthering the movement to boycott Israel in that specific venue.

For almost 14 years before coming to



## Editor

**Michael Regenstreif**

Ottawa, I hosted a weekly folk music program on CKUT, the community radio station based at McGill University in Montreal. The station's format is similar to Ottawa stations CKCU at Carleton and CHUO at uOttawa.

The CKUT schedule included programs produced by and for members of certain cultural communities, including a weekly Jewish magazine show. There was also a Palestinian program I listened to a number of times. The show was typically devoted to anti-Israel propaganda. Occasionally, for a *Jewish perspective*, they'd interview someone like Norman G. Finkelstein. The show often called for a boycott of Israel and companies that do business in Israel.

One day, I happened to see one of the producers of the Palestinian community radio show in a coffee shop. I couldn't help but notice that, when he turned on his laptop, it was running Microsoft's Windows XP, an operating system devel-

oped in Israel. Israel is the location for one of Microsoft's three international research centres. Microsoft's Bill Gates has referred to Israel as "a high-tech superpower."

He connected to the Internet and headed straight for Google. The technology that runs Google ads – which is what finances the search engine most of us use – was developed in Israel, a centre for Google R&D. I don't know whether or not his computer was running on one of the Pentium class chips that Intel developed in Israel.

Then he took a cell phone call. I can't be sure that his particular phone was using any technology developed in Israel, but chances are it was.

I'm willing to bet that the IAW organizers who held their *Boycott Israel* event at the Azrieli Theatre all probably use lots of technology developed in Israel.

\*\*\*\*\*

This week marks the 30th anniversary of the Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty. It was on March 26, 1978 that Menachem Begin, then Israel's prime minister, and Anwar Sadat, then president of Egypt, signed the historic treaty in Washington climaxing a process that began with Sadat's unprecedented trip to Jerusalem and his address to the Knesset on Novem-

ber 20, 1977.

Beginning with the War of Independence in 1948 – and continuing with the Suez War in 1956, the Six Day War in 1967 and the Yom Kippur War in 1973 – Israel and Egypt fought four major wars in the first 25 years of Israeli statehood. Some time after the Yom Kippur War, Sadat came to the conclusion that enough was enough, that Israeli statehood was a reality that wasn't going away, that enough blood had been spilt, and he made the bold choice to pursue peace.

Peace between Israel and Egypt has not been a peace bane of friendship and warmth between their peoples. Rather, it's been a pragmatic peace, often described as a *cold peace*, between two countries that have wisely concluded that the alternative is not – and should not ever again be – acceptable.

Sadly, Sadat was assassinated in 1981 by Egyptian peace rejectionists, just as Yitzhak Rabin would be assassinated by an Israeli peace rejectionist 14 years later.

\*\*\*\*\*

Like so many in the community, the thoughts of all of us at the *Bulletin* have been with Terry Schwarzfeld and her family since we first heard the news of the assault and terrible injuries she suffered while on vacation in Barbados.

## Fire up Google to find out how long a cubit is



**Alan Echenberg**

News item: Amazon.com has introduced the Kindle 2, the latest version of its electronic book reading device, which can store up to 1,500 e-books.

Amazon offers tens of thousands of titles available for download from its website. Among the most popular: Dozens of different versions of the e-Bible.

\*\*\*\*\*

And the almighty said "Behold I have given you every electronic device which is upon the face of all the earth, and every website, and all proprietary and non-proprietary software and all social media – to you it shall be for surfing and for interacting from afar and for the wasting of great eons of time." And it was so.

And behold, it was very good.

\*\*\*\*\*

Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field. And he said unto the Woman: "No one will knoweth should ye eat of the fruit of this tree."

And when the Woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof.

But the cunning serpent had videotaped the woman's fruit-eating with his cell phone and posted the video to YouTube for

all creatures to see. And so Adam and Eve were banished from the Garden of Eden, and the serpent was made to crawl on its belly for the rest of its days and had its internet use severely curtailed.

\*\*\*\*\*

And so Noah was commanded to build an ark the length of 300 cubits, the breadth of 50 cubits and the height of 30 cubits. Thus did Noah first Google 'cubits' so as to figure out what size to make the vessel.

Of every living thing of all flesh, two of every sort did he bring into the ark.

And when he Googled the local weather, he foresaw 40 days and 40 nights of rain.

And the waters increased, and bore up the ark, and it was lifted above the earth, and Noah found that the fancy GPS receiver he had paid way too much for on eBay was of no use in finding land.

\*\*\*\*\*

And Abraham built the altar, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

And Abraham's mobile phone went off, playing a melody unfamiliar to the patriarch. And Abraham said to his son "Hast thou been downloading ringtones again? Doest thou know how many shekels that cost? Those wireless companies are robbing me blind!"

And Abraham answered the phone on the third ring, just before it went to message. And the angel on the line said "Abraham, Abraham." And he said, "Hear me I." And the angel said, "Lay not thy hand upon the boy." And Abraham said, "It's a good thing you called when you did."

\*\*\*\*\*

And Joseph dreamed a dream. And he posted it as a note on Facebook, "Behold, the sun and the moon and the 11 stars bowed down to me," he wrote. And then he posted another note called "25 great things I dreamed about myself." And then he posted a picture of himself wearing a coat of many colors. And then – through their newsfeeds – he invited his brethren to write comments underneath the photo, praising the coat. And then he Facebook-

poked them when they did not respond. And then he updated his status: "Joseph is about to have another great dream. Will post more tomorrow."

And all his brethren hated him yet the more for his poor netiquette. And they unfriended him on Facebook. And they cast him into a pit and sold him to a caravan of Ishmaelites for 20 shekels of silver using PayPal.

\*\*\*\*\*

And Moses did sign up for Twitter and directed a tweet to @Pharaoh. And Moses tweeted "Let My people go." And Moses posted a link in the tweet to his blog, where Moses posted a blog entry about rivers turning to blood. And another about the borders of Egypt being smitten with frogs. And another about all the dust of the earth becoming gnats. And seven more blog entries of even more grievous quality.

But Pharaoh was old. And hardened of heart. And he did not even know how to use Twitter. Lo, he still relied on e-mail. And the occasional fax.

And it came to pass that all of the land of Egypt was plagued with boils. And smiting of first-borns. And massive cascading network failures.

*Alan Echenberg is TVOntario's Parliamentary bureau chief.*



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Ben Kershman lies on the floor during a rehearsal of *The Dybbuk* at Yitzhak Rabin High School with (left to right) David Anzarouth, Avi Weiss, Itzy Kamil and Jon Golub.

## **Yitzhak Rabin High School presents *The Dybbuk***

By Cynthia Bates

*Yitzhak Rabin High School*

Described as “Romeo and Juliet meets *The Exorcist*, Yiddish-style,” *The Dybbuk*, written in 1914 by the Belarus-born playwright S. Ansky (Shloyme Zanvl Rappoport), has continued to intrigue theatre aficionados for decades since it was first penned. Google it and you will learn that *The Dybbuk* has had at least half a dozen incarnations – from stage to screen to puppet theatre to television movie, including a radio play featuring the voice of Ed Asner. Like some of Shakespeare’s better-known plays, Ansky’s original *Dybbuk* has been adapted by a number of playwrights to extract the essence of the story they wanted to tell.

On April 1, 2 and 5, Yitzhak Rabin High School (YRHS) will present *The Dybbuk*, as adapted and directed by Jack Messinger. Unlike the original Ansky play with its legions of characters, or a version performed by a San Diego company in which two actors played all the pivotal roles, Messinger has identified 15 essential characters for this version of the fascinating tale.

The play, set in a late-19th century Polish village, focuses on the love story between a poor young rabbi named Chanan (Ben Kershman) and Leah (Taylor Siegel), daughter of the town’s wealthiest man and patron of the local synagogue where Chanan studied. Sender (Jon Golub), Leah’s father, desiring a materially advantageous marriage for his daughter, arranges for her to wed the immature son – a mama’s boy – of a wealthy man. Upon learning of the engagement, Chanan, who has been fasting, studying the mystical Kabbalah and calling upon dark powers to bring Leah to him, dies.

A few months later, as the wedding celebrations get underway, the pining and forlorn Leah becomes possessed by a *dybbuk*, a wan-

dering soul, and refuses to wed her betrothed. The second act is concerned with the attempted exorcism by the ancient and famous Rabbi Azriel of Mirapole (community thespian Moe Romanow).

But, before the exorcism can be performed, a mystery must be solved. Why was the innocent maiden possessed in the first place? The Messenger (Michaela Sadinsky), an ethereal creature – who appears throughout the play to deliver, not surprisingly, important messages – holds a revealing clue to the mystery’s resolution.

Look for YRHS teachers Avi Weiss and Daphne Shani taking on roles in the production. Other student cast members include David Anzarouth, Itzy Kamil, Hadas Moaz, Shirley Argoetti, Sarah-Idit Prizant, Adam Sadinsky, Corinne Baray and Jacob Landau.

This production marks YRHS’s initial foray into the Cappies (Critics and Awards Program), an organization that promotes high school theatre in cities across North America. This is the fourth year Ottawa has participated in the Cappies and Yitzhak Rabin joins 30 other area high schools taking part.

Student critics from the other Cappies schools will be in attendance April 1 at YRHS’s opening night presentation of *The Dybbuk*. Undoubtedly, they will be asking themselves questions such as: Will justice be done? And will true love prevail?

Come and learn the answers to these and other intriguing questions by attending one of three public performances of *The Dybbuk* in the YRHS/Hillel school gym, Wednesday-Thursday, April 1-2, 7:00 pm, and Sunday, April 5, 2:00 pm, when the stage will be transformed into a century-old synagogue and village. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$8 for students, 18 and under. Call 613-727-0420, ext. 343. The play may not be suitable for children under 10. Seating is limited.

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**Serious water shortage looms in Israel: JNF is helping**

By endowing the Barbara Crook and Dan Greenberg Reservoir at Mishmar HaYarden located north of Lake Kinneret at the 2008 JNF Ottawa Negev Dinner, the Ottawa community played a significant role in addressing a growing water crisis in Israel.

The struggle to obtain water for agriculture is becoming more acute because of the extremely serious water crisis. There has not been a month of January on record with as little rain as there was this year. Israel will only be able to pump 50 million cubic metres out of the Kinneret this year.

So, for agriculture to survive, Israel must recycle effluent for agricultural use. Rainfall, to date, in most of the country, has been far lower than average. And this follows years of low rainfall.

With even average rainfall, the Kinneret's water level will be only 20 to 30 centimetres above the red line by the end of the month. The way from there to the black line, where all pumping must stop, is short and fast.

JNF is a central player in the nation-wide effort in Israel to address the water crisis. On January 13, 2009, KKL-JNF dedicated the Ma'ayan Tzvi water reservoir in the north of Israel. The reservoir will provide 12 million cubic metres of purified effluent to irrigate local agricultural fields and will thus help to alleviate the water shortage in Israel.

According to KKL-JNF World Chairman Efi Stentzler, "the agricultural fields continuing existence is vital and critical for the State of Israel. This is why we have built over 200 water reservoirs, which provide more than 40 per cent of the water needed for agriculture.

"This reservoir, along with its 'twin sister' and the sewage purification plant located next to it, brings triple gain: they collect the sewage of the Carmel beach communities, thereby averting pollution of the streams and the ocean; they provide water for agriculture for the farmers; and, lastly, they harvest the floodwaters of Nabai Dalia, thus increasing the water in the reservoirs and improving its quality."

The dedication of the Ottawa Jewish community to supporting JNF projects in Israel that enable agriculture and preserve and enhance the environment was shown yet again this year in your outstanding response to our annual Tu Bi'Shevat Telethon.

Ottawa JNF and JNF Canada appreciate the exceptional support of this community for Israel and thanks you again.

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## Film on European anti-Semitism and Dershowitz's Case for Israel to be screened April 13

By Fred Litwin

Free Thinking Film Society

Ottawa's Free Thinking Film Society is turning its attention to Israel and anti-Semitism with a double feature presentation of *The Monster Among Us*, a look at the alarming rise of anti-Semitism in Europe, and *The Case for Israel*, Alan Dershowitz's new film defending the legitimacy of Israel and its right to self-defence.

The films will be screened Monday, April 13, 6:30 pm, at Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street. Admission is \$10 and a panel discussion, between the two films, is being planned.

*The Monster Among Us* includes excerpts from footage shot in Germany, Hungary, France, England, Holland and Belgium. Anti-Semitism in Europe has become increasingly violent in recent years. Although the film was produced before the war in Gaza, the situation has worsened since then.

*The Case for Israel* is based on Dershowitz's book of the same name. No one defends Israel quite like Dershowitz, and he convincingly refutes deeply entrenched misperceptions about Israel's history, how Israel is governed, the security fence and Israel's military conduct in the face of terrorist attacks. Among the many people interviewed in the film are Phyllis Chesler, Irwin Cotler, Benjamin Netanyahu, Tzipi Livni, Shimon Peres, Natan Sharansky, Dennis Ross, Caroline Glick and Benny Morris.



Alan Dershowitz (left) talks with MP Irwin Cotler in a scene from *The Case for Israel*.

We decided to bring these films to Ottawa before the war in Gaza started. We felt it was important to see what is happening in Europe and for people to understand why Israel is a beacon of democracy. The war in Gaza makes these films even more important.

I founded the Free Thinking Film Society in Ottawa because I had noticed that Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11* had played all over Ottawa, but several counter-documentaries never seemed to play here. I sent an email to the ByTowne Theatre about one such documentary and they replied that they had no real interest. It was clear that the only way I would see these sort of films play here was by forming a film society to bring them in.

Our first presentation, in January 2007, was *Obsession*, a film about radical Islam. We rented the Rainbow Cinema in the St. Laurent Shopping Centre, paid the fee and started promoting the film. About two weeks before the event, I received an email from the Rainbow cancelling the film because a former university professor sent an email claiming the film maligned Muslims. Fortunately, I was able to get the venue changed in time, and got some publicity out of it.

*The Monster Among Us* and *The Case for Israel* will be our sixth film presentation.

For more information, visit [freethinkingfilms.com](http://freethinkingfilms.com) or contact me at [fred.litwin@gmail.com](mailto:fred.litwin@gmail.com).

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## Volunteer spotlight

# Despite challenges, Hillel Carleton leader enjoys her role

By Benita Siemiatycki

Despite a busy schedule as a second year university student majoring in political science and international relations, an author, a Masters level swimmer and a swim instructor, Chelsea Sauvé has taken on another big job. She is the president of Hillel Carleton, the organization representing Jewish students at Carleton University.

So far, her presidency hasn't been easy. In the fall, Hillel was thrust into difficult territory when the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) – citing Hillel's Zionist stance – refused to co-sponsor a Hillel event featuring a Ugandan Jewish leader. Then the Israeli military action this winter in Gaza spawned a marked increase in anti-Zionist, and even anti-Semitic activities on campus. Hillel Carleton, like other Jewish students' groups across North America, had to fend off attacks on Israel that were often tinged with anti-Semitic sentiments. The recent Israeli Apartheid Week was the latest on-cam-

pus activity confronting Hillel. An offensive Israeli Apartheid Week poster was banned by the administrations of both Carleton and the University of Ottawa sparking protests and controversy that made headlines around the world.

All that to say, at the tender age of 19, Chelsea has faced challenges that would make most people run in the opposite direction, regardless of their age. Instead, Chelsea says, she's grown from these experiences and is a better leader as a result.

When she assumed the presidency, she had ideas about programming, promoting tzedakah and engaging Jewish youth. But recent events forced her to learn public relations on the fly, particularly about defending the Israeli viewpoint. She didn't expect the job to be as political as it's turned out to be, or as time-consuming. But she has no regrets about taking on the president's job. Dealing with students, opposing activists and university administrators, Chelsea is

honing her communication skills at all levels.

She now understands what is entailed in heading up an organization. The greatest lesson she's learned is that "I have to make decisions based on what's best for the organization, and not what's best for individuals. In this position, you cannot please everyone."

As part of her position, Chelsea received training on how to advocate for Israel. She has been forced to define Zionism for herself, which is an important aspect of being a Jewish leader, she believes, "so that, when you're advocating, you're advocating for something you believe in."

During the winter break, Chelsea attended the World Union of Jewish Students conference in Israel, where she met other Jewish student leaders from all corners of the world.

One of her most special moments there came when the group recited the blessings over the Chanukah candles. No matter where they came from, she says, they all sang the same tune.

Chelsea credits her mother, Suzi Sauvé, and her grandparents, Debi and David Shore, for instilling Jewish values and the desire to help others. Debi is a regular volunteer at Hillel Lodge.

"My grandparents instilled my Jewish identity, the love I have for Judaism and the way that I define Judaism for myself," she says.



Chelsea Sauvé balances a busy schedule of full-time studies and other activities with the presidency of Hillel Carleton.

(OJB Photo: Benita Siemiatycki)

"And they encourage me to continue the process."

Sometimes I have to readjust my focus."

Every Friday night,

Chelsea frees her calendar to be at the Shabbat table with her extended family.

"My family is my number one priority in my life.

She's in her second editing

stage and will soon contact publishers. Asked how she could get into the minds of boys, she points to her long-time observations of younger brother Corey and his friends.

Despite her overwhelming schedule, Chelsea also achieves very good grades. But finding the balance between all her activities is difficult, she concedes. Her future is likely to include law school and working in the areas of human rights and international law, but not in the Middle East.

"I'm so personally attached to it [Israel], I don't know if I can pursue that professionally as a career choice," Chelsea explains. No doubt being president of Hillel Carleton is invaluable training for whatever lies ahead.

*Benita Siemiatycki of the Jewish Ottawa InfoCentre profiles community volunteers in the Bulletin. Many organizations are in desperate need of volunteers. Call the InfoCentre at 613-798-4644 for information.*

## Jewish groups laud Obama stem cell order

WASHINGTON (JTA) – Jewish groups applauded American President Barack Obama's decision to lift the executive order restricting federal funding for embryonic stem cell research.

"We wholeheartedly thank President Obama for his action on this important issue," said Nancy Falchuk, Hadassah's U.S. national president, of the March 9 decision. "Those suffering from debilitating diseases and disorders for which stem cell research holds great promise now have a renewed sense of hope."

The Orthodox Union (OU) and B'nai B'rith International also praised Obama. Nathan Diamant, OU public policy director, said "the traditional Jewish perspective" emphasizes that "the potential to save and heal

human lives is an integral part of valuing human life. Stem cell research is consistent with and serves these moral and noble goals."

"Scientists have had to devote much of their time to figuring out how to do their research while complying with the restrictions," said Rachel Goldberg, B'nai B'rith International's director of aging policy. "Unlocking federal dollars for research will knock down critical barriers our top researchers have faced and allow them to go back to what they do best – making discoveries."

In 2001, then-president George W. Bush said federal funding for embryonic stem cell research could be used only on a small number of stem cell lines in existence at the time. In 2007, he vetoed a bill that would have allowed frozen embryos to be used for research.

Proponents of embryonic stem cell research believe it can be used to find cures for Parkinson's and Alzheimer's diseases, among other illnesses. Critics believe that destroying embryos while performing such research is equivalent to destroying human life.

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# Batsheva dancers launch celebration of 60 years of Canada-Israel diplomatic relations and friendship

By Norm Barwin,  
President  
Canada-Israel  
Cultural Foundation

A year-long celebration marking 60 years of diplomatic relations and friendship between Canada and Israel got underway February 12 when Israel's Batsheva Dance Company thrilled a full house in the National Arts Centre Theatre Hall with its innovative performance.

The Batsheva Dance Company was founded in 1964 by Martha Graham and Baroness Batsheva de Rothschild.

Led by artistic director Ohad Naharin and choreographer Sharon Eyal, the company's 65 members includes dancers, a technical crew and administrators driven by a vision to excel in art and to



Norm Barwin, president of the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation (left), with three members of the Batsheva Dance Company, Israeli Ambassador Miriam Ziv and Cathy Levy, producer of dance programming at the National Arts Centre during a reception following the Batsheva performance February 12.

strengthen common human creativity. values through the power of The 17 international

Naharin's creative genius. All three dances are based on the principles of *Gaga*, described by Natasha Gauthier in the *Ottawa Citizen* as "a creative language of Naharin's own invention that Batsheva's dancers train in daily." *Gaga* "attempts to teach heightened body awareness through repetitive but increasingly layered and expanding movements."

The first of *Sholosh*'s movements is "Bellus," which uses a recording of Bach's "Goldberg Variations" to accompany a series of solo and duet pieces. The movement's highlight was the *pas de deux*, an intimate and beautiful intertwining of two dancers.

In "Humus," the middle movement, Gauthier described the dancers as "moving in unison to a barely au-

dible, gently pulsating score by Brian Eno." It included "a welcome touch of levity" with a television showing a close-up of a dancer's face as he "describes the performance in archly simple terms."

In "Secus," the final and longest movement, the dancers demonstrated their agility and physicality in an exciting choreography of leaps, twists and unique poses which ended the performance with a sense of breathlessness. It was an experience the audience will long remember with admiration and pleasure.

Following the performance, a reception was hosted by the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation, the Embassy of Israel and the National Arts Centre Dance Department.

## Pope admits he mishandled bishop matter earlier in year

ROME (JTA) - Pope Benedict XVI admits in a letter that his rehabilitation of a Holocaust-denying bishop backfired.

The remarkable letter to bishops, whose text was released March 12, also says the Vatican must become Internet savvy to prevent further missteps.

Benedict specifically addressed the lifting of the excommunication order on Richard Williamson and three other traditionalist bishops, saying it unleashed "an avalanche of protests" whose "bitterness laid bare wounds deeper than those of the present moment."

Lifting the excommunications had been intended to heal a rift in the church. But it "suddenly appeared as something completely different: as the repudiation of reconciliation between Christians and Jews," and a revocation of the reforms of the Second Vatican Council.

The pope continued, "A gesture of reconciliation with an ecclesial group engaged in a process of separation thus turned into its very antithesis: an apparent step backwards with regard to all the steps of reconciliation between Christians and Jews taken since the Council - steps which my own work as a theologian had sought from the beginning to take part in and support." This, Benedict said, he "can only deeply regret."

"I have been told that

consulting the information available on the Internet would have made it possible to perceive the problem early on. I have learned the lesson that in the future in the Holy See we will have to pay greater attention to that source of news," the pope said.

Pontiffs very rarely issue a document admitting errors. Benedict said he was particularly hurt by the "open hostility" from within the Church itself.

"Precisely for this reason I thank all the more our Jewish friends, who quickly helped to clear up the misunderstanding and to restore the atmosphere of friendship and trust."

World Jewish Congress President Ronald Lauder praised the pope.

"The Pope has found clear and unequivocal words regarding Bishop Williamson's Holocaust denial, and he deserves praise for admitting that mistakes were made within the Vatican in the handling of this affair," Lauder said in a statement.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are welcome if they are brief, signed, timely and of interest to our readership. The *Bulletin* reserves the right to refuse, edit or condense letters.

The *Mailbag* column will be published as space permits. Send your letters to Michael Regenstreif, Ottawa Jewish Bulletin, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private, Ottawa, Ontario K2A 1R9, or e-mail him at [mregenstreif@ottawaewishbulletin.com](mailto:mregenstreif@ottawaewishbulletin.com).



## 75th Annual General Meeting

Please hold the date

The Jewish Federation of Ottawa's  
75th Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, June 3, 2009  
7:00 pm

Nathan, David and Max Zelikovitz Families  
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Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building  
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The Jewish community of Ottawa  
is invited to attend.

## Hillel Academy student Jared Roth competes in regional spelling bee

By Nicola Hamer  
Hillel Academy

Communications Director

Jared Roth, a Grade 7 student at Hillel Academy, breezed through the first two rounds of the Canwest Canspell Ottawa Citizen Regional Spelling Bee, March 8, at the National Gallery of Canada. But he was stopped short in round three by the word 'redolent.'

Jared was competing in the regional finals for the first time and

was delighted to have made it as far as he did. His primary goal, he said, was just not to embarrass himself. One of 20 students eliminated in the third round, Jared and his parents were pleased with the experience.

Well over a dozen friends and family turned up to cheer Jared on. Donna Palmer-Dodds, head of schools at Hillel Academy and Yitzhak Rabin High School, and Wendy Waxman, Hillel's vice-

principal of general studies, both came out to support the student.

Palmer-Dodds admitted to being so nervous when Jared was on stage that she had to find ways to distract herself because she "couldn't stand the stress." Jared, himself, was calm and said it was a fun experience and that he was looking forward to returning next year and going further.

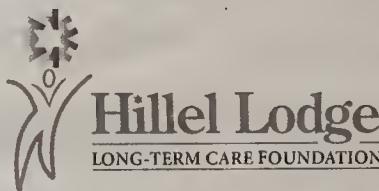
Jared, whose hobbies were listed as "tree climbing, tennis, skiing

and sledding," came in second for three years in Hillel Academy's spelling bee before finally becoming the school's champion earlier this year. He then took a written test, along with all the other school champions, which determined the top 61 spellers who would compete in the regional bee.

Anna Lawrence, 10, of Home Based Learners won the competition in the eighth round by correctly spelling 'chiroptery.'



Jared Roth



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Debbie and Jeff Scharf Mazal tov and best wishes on the birth of your son by Elaine Friedberg and Bob Dale

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In Memory of:

Cy Toronto by Etta Karp

In Honour of:

Dorothy Karp Congratulations and best wishes on your special birthday by Ruth Karp and Arthur Max

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Eileen Baron by the Kimmel, Kaiman and Levine families

R'fuah Shlema:

Lou Eisenberg by the Kimmel, Kaiman and Levine families

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In Honour of:

Andree and George Acel Happy Birthday and Mazal tov to each of you as you begin your 7th decade of wisdom... we wish you continued good health, lots of laughter, and the joys of sharing in your friendship with love by Rachel, Howard, Davida and Josh Schachter

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Faigy and Zachary Muroff Mazal tov on the birth of your new granddaughter Elisheva by Mara and Isaac Muzikansky and family

\*\*\*\*\*

### IN MEMORY OF:

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Isadore Rose by the Boman Family

Isadore "Scott" Smith by Anette and Jack Edelson

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Gina and Howard Grant Mazal tov on the birth of your twin grandsons by Rhonda and Danny Levine

Steve Kerzner Mazal tov on receiving the Ben Karp JCC Volunteer Service Award by Zahava and Barry Farber and family

Miriam and Charles Taub Mazal tov on Avi's engagement by Ruth and Dale Fyman

### R'FUAH SHLEMA:

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## Early Beginnings: more than just a daycare

By Pamela Rosenberg  
for Soloway JCC

For many families, Early Beginnings Multicultural Child Development Centre is so much more than simply a daycare.

In a recent survey, conducted by the Early Beginnings board of directors and answered anonymously, parents gave answers like "nothing short of superb" to describe the care, attention and love their children receive on a daily basis.

Much of the daycare's success can be directly attributed to Marie Stovicek, the Early Beginnings director for almost 20 years. Her professionalism and knowledge of childhood education, and her love and dedication for all the children, fills parents with confidence.

Stovicek believes that children learn through action and that a positive environment for learning should be one that exercises and challenges the developing potential of each child.

"As teachers in the field of early education, we view our role as supporters in all aspects of child development, encouraging children to express themselves as individuals and to learn respect for others," she said.

According to Stovicek, the centre's biggest asset is the staff. They truly enjoy working with children and giving the program so much more than a mere eight hours a day.

Part of what makes Early Beginnings special is that it is a multicultural facility. While staff members do incorporate Jewish holidays and traditions into the curriculum, they are sensitive in accommodating and educating children from all different cultural backgrounds.

Parent Jackie Luffman-Lyman is the president of the Early Beginnings board. She says Stovicek does a great job of integrating children from different ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds.

"You have non-Jewish staff singing and teaching the children Chanukah songs, teaching them about the importance of Rosh Hashanah and both non-Jewish staff and children eating matzah every day on Passover," said Luffman-Lyman.

"You have new immigrants to the community with very little knowledge of English integrating smoothly into the daily routine.

There is no other experience in the Jewish community where you have children from different ethno-linguistic and cultural backgrounds singing and playing together on a daily basis."

Because of their location on the Jewish Community Campus, children at Early Beginnings have the opportunity to take advantage of great facilities just steps away like the Soloway JCC swimming pool and gym and the Hillel Academy library. The daycare also provides professional music lessons and French.

When Sari Cantor's son was 1 1/2, she switched him from

another daycare facility to Early Beginnings. Although she had concerns about moving him from a place where he was comfortable and happy, she says the transition was seamless as Stovicek has an effective plan to integrate the children and relieve any separation anxiety.

"Early Beginning is so special because I drop Evan off every day and I leave with the utmost confidence that my son is well cared for and loved," said Cantor. "Evan likes the extra TLC he gets and the additional attention that comes his way because the staff is so good."

Early Beginnings – the only full-day program in the city providing kosher meals – has developed a winning reputation for its delicious meals. If you've ever walked by the building in the morning, chances are you've caught a whiff of Svetlana's homemade banana bread or legendary chicken soup with matzah balls.

Stovicek says what she likes best about her job is seeing happy children and satisfied parents. "The fact that I personally played a big part in building this successful daycare is most satisfying."

## U.S. teachers reject academic boycott of Israel

JERUSALEM (JTA) – The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) has reiterated its opposition to an academic boycott of Israel.

"We believe academic boycotts were a bad idea in 2002 and are a bad idea now," AFT President Randi Weingarten said in a statement released March 11. "Academic boycotts are inconsistent with the democratic values of academic freedom and free expression."

In the aftermath of the war in Gaza, several Canadian and American professors, and labour organizers including Sid Ryan, president of CUPE Ontario, have called for an academic boycott of Israel. The initia-

tives are similar to efforts by a group of British academics earlier this decade intended to block Israeli universities and professors from participating in academic conferences and other forums outside of Israel.

"We want to make clear that this position does not in any way discourage an open discussion and debate of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict or of ways to resolve it," Weingarten said. "However, we expect that such a discussion would not be one-sided and would consider the behaviour of all the relevant actors. An academic boycott of Israel, or of any country, for that matter, would effectively suppress free speech without helping to resolve the conflict."

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## Purim celebrations in Ottawa



Tamir participants assembled Purim baskets March 8 for residents of Central Park Lodge.  
(Photo: Robin Chernick)



Balloon animals were part of the fun at the Friendship Circle Purim party March 10 at the Soloway JCC.



JET volunteers assemble Mishloach Manot March 8 at Congregation Beit Tikvah. Packages were delivered to more than 1,200 households on Purim.



Rabbi Menachem Blum and friend at Ottawa Torah Center's Purim in the Jungle party March 9 at the Soloway JCC.  
(Photo: Peter Waisler)



JET joined forces with the Federation Young Adult Division and the Jewish Grad Students Association for a Purim party March 9 at the Velvet Room featuring a Megillah reading and Moroccan buffet dinner.



Jewish Family Services held a pre-Purim party for the Russian Jewish community March 1 at the Churchill Seniors Club.



The cast and directors of The Beatles Purim Shpiel, the Soloway JCC's second annual Purim parody, gather on stage following their sold-out performance March 8.



Students at NCSY's community-wide Purim party at Sir Robert Borden High School enjoy the Megillah reading, ice cream and a professional improv show.

## Purim celebrations in Ottawa



Members of Adath Shalom and the Ottawa Reconstructionist Havurah follow the Megillah reading at their joint Purim party March 9.



"Spider-Man" (left) and friends at the Ganon Preschool Purim Carnival March 6.



Students from the Beniolo School performed a Purim play March 2 at Hillel Lodge.



More than 125 kids and 160 adults turned out for the joint JET, Soloway JCC and Summer Camps program Purim Party March 8.



Members of Creative Connections celebrated Purim March 10.



Students have fun March 10 at Hillel Academy's Purim Carnival.



The "Spice Girls" were among the students who celebrated at Chabad Student Network's Purimania March 9 at uOttawa.

## Meet Nancy Walkington:

# New special events co-ordinator at annual campaign

By Benita Siemiatycki

Nancy Walkington started work in January as the special events co-ordinator of the Annual Campaign of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa. She replaced Patrice Berdowski, who now heads the membership department of the Soloway Jewish Community Centre.

Walkington is a recent graduate of Algonquin College's event management program, where her academic standing put her on the Dean's List.

Her coursework included planning a wine and food tasting event at Urban Element. Proceeds from the event, and from other events planned by fellow students, were donated to a local family registered with the Children's Wish Foundation.

When the family came to



Nancy Walkington hopes to introduce a major new and enduring event to the Annual Campaign.

(OJB Photo: Benita Siemiatycki)

the class to receive the donation, Walkington realized the power and impact that

helping people through her work could have.

"That was a fantastic

feeling," she said. "At that point, I knew I'd work for a non-profit organization."

Walkington is from Ottawa and completed her undergraduate degree in psychology at Carleton University.

After graduation, she landed in retail sales for Bell Mobility and worked her way up to account management in its corporate office. She says the job's fast pace and contact with people suited her perfectly. But, when her first child was born 10 years ago, she decided to devote herself to her daughter and to the son who followed three years later.

Walkington thoroughly enjoyed her time spent at home, admitting that her children "are people I would enjoy spending time

with, even if I wasn't their mom."

Once her youngest started school full time, Walkington decided to enter the field of event management and enrolled in the Algonquin program.

She was drawn to the excitement of organizing and attending events and the chance to develop client relationships. In addition to her course assignment for the Children's Wish Foundation, Walkington also did placements at the Canadian Bar Association in the meetings and conferences department and the annual CHEO BBQ event, for which she continues to volunteer.

At first, Walkington thought not being Jewish would be a disadvantage. However, after a few weeks

on the job, she realizes that, in fact, it gives her a blank slate in terms of developing relationships with her committee and other community members.

She is enthusiastic about the learning curve ahead of her, especially as she learns who's who in the Jewish community, and the meanings of Yiddish words and Jewish holidays.

So far, she says, her co-workers have been nothing but helpful in teaching her about Judaism and the local community.

Walkington is looking forward to working with the committees and chairs on upcoming events like Guys' Night Out and the golf tournament. Her ultimate goal is to introduce a major new and enduring event to the Annual Campaign.

## Jewish studies conference community day, May 24, offers snapshots of the Jewish Canadian Experience

By Rebecca Margolis

Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program – uOttawa ACJS Conference Chair

The annual conference of the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies (ACJS) will take place from May 24 to 26 under the auspices of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences of Canada, which meets this year at Carleton University.

The ACJS annual conference is a nationwide gathering of scholars who come together to present their research on Jewish Canadian history, life and culture from a variety of disciplines.

In conjunction with the conference, ACJS and the Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program of the University of Ottawa will host a Community Day spotlighting different aspects of the Jewish Canadian experience on Sunday, May 24 at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (JCC). The event is free and open to the general public. Anyone with an interest in Jewish Canadian life is invited to attend all or part of the day. No registration is required.

Community Day will provide an opportunity for the Ottawa community to participate in a series of lectures from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm. According to Mallory Schwartz, a graduate student in University of Ottawa's Department of History, the event presents "an exciting and unique opportunity for scholars and the public alike to learn from each other."

Schwartz's paper, which forms part of the opening panel on Yiddish politics, will discuss the 1945 election of Fred Rose, the only Communist ever elected to the House of Commons. The same panel will also include Ester Reiter of York University speaking about the integration of cultural activity such as choirs and theatre into Canada's left-wing Yiddish schools.

Gerald Stone, an avid collector of Jewish Canadiana who recently retired after a 25-year career at Library and Archives Canada, will lecture on some of the earliest printed sources on Jewish Canadian life dating back to the 1750s. Rare materials from his personal collection will be on display.

Goldie Morgentaler's paper about the challenges she has encountered in teaching modern Jewish literature at Southern Alberta's University of Lethbridge, where there are almost no Jewish students, forms part of a panel on ethnicity and intercultural encounters. During that session, I will discuss the Yiddish translation of Michel Tremblay's play, *Les Belles-sœurs*.

A panel on the Holocaust and the Canadian experience will include discussion of three areas: trends in Shoah commemoration, the Canadian movement to boycott the 1936 Olympics, and caricatures of Jews and political cartoons related to the Holocaust published in Canadian newspapers.

Organizers have worked with the Soloway JCC to co-ordinate Community Day.

"We appreciate being able to participate in this unique opportunity for the community to learn more about Jewish Canadian Studies from scholars in the field," said Maxine Miska, Soloway JCC's interim president and chief operating officer.

Seymour Mayne, senior faculty member in the Vered Jewish Canadian Studies Program at uOttawa, underlines that "our program is unique in that we focus on the contribution of Jews and the Jewish community to all aspects of the culture and history of Canada. One of our goals is to share our knowledge and scholarly enthusiasm not only with our students but also with the public at large whom we warmly welcome to our activities."

The day will conclude with an evening banquet featuring a kosher dinner, the awarding of this year's ACJS Louis Rosenberg Distinguished Service Award, and a concert-lecture by Ottawa songwriter-performer Shelley Posen, who will sing and speak on the subject, *A Jewish Songwriter's Dilemma: Jewish, Too Jewish, Not Jewish Enough*.

Tickets to the banquet are \$20 and must be purchased by May 19 at the Soloway JCC front desk. For more information, call Roslyn Wollock at 613-798-9818, ext. 254.

A detailed schedule of Community Day lectures will be available at [acjs-aejc.ca](http://acjs-aejc.ca) after May 1.

For more information, contact me at [rmmargolis@uottawa.ca](mailto:rmmargolis@uottawa.ca) or 613-562-5800.



Shelley Posen's concert lecture, *A Jewish Songwriter's Dilemma: Jewish, Too Jewish, Not Jewish Enough*, will be presented at the evening banquet culminating the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies Community Day, May 24, at the Soloway JCC.

## Campus Activism: the play

In New York recently, I had the opportunity to see a Broadway revival of David Mamet's 1988 play *Speed the Plow*. A satire of Hollywood greed and sexual conquest, the story examines loyalty, romance and principles.

I watched an impressive William H. Macy bring to life the character of Bobby Gould, a man caught between professional fidelity to his long-time producer partner and his belief in the possibility of infusing entertainment with morals.

Back at Carleton, with campus politics playing to a full house, it seems that the struggle between appearing loyal to one's communal group and helping actualize one's principles has never been more obvious. Much of the mainstream discourse around Israel permeating campus politics these days seems to operate according to script. I wonder whether we can take an intermission and send this tired storyline back for rewrites.

As I write, Israeli Apartheid week is taking place at campuses in Ottawa and 11 other Canadian cities as well as at various universities across the globe. The apartheid term describing Israel's relationship to the Palestinians has circulated with increasing frequency and ferocity in recent years. It's unfortunate, since its primary contribution to the debate has been to make Israel's supporters feel attacked. And hence the dialogue crucial to helping this conflict loosen is frozen before it has even begun.

At the same time, campus politics have taken on a Mamet-like hue of principles being defined by loyalty. Few on the *Israel side* seem to be trying to peel away that alienating apartheid label and investigating what, precisely, those who

argue for Palestinian rights are saying.

Unlike previous generations, when Israel enjoyed wide-ranging Western support, we now see Diaspora Zionists on the defensive. The Six Day War and Yom Kippur War cast Israel as fighting for its life against an intransigent Arab world, while spectacular and horrifying Palestinian terrorism – recall the 1972 Munich Olympics massacre and the 1985 Achille Lauro cruise-ship hijacking – raged.

But today, international eyes are turned to the daily humiliation of the 2.5 million West Bank Palestinians living under occupation behind an Israeli *security barrier* that does not respect the Green Line, as Palestinians bury their 1,300 dead in Gaza from the December war. Israelis argue that the barrier has resulted in a sharp drop in suicide bombings, and that the Gaza war was a response to illegal and murderous Hamas rocket attacks.

Is anyone watching that pained region actually in favour of the status quo?

Does anyone like occupation? Does everyone think – to paraphrase Winston Churchill on democracy – that the Israeli occupation is the worst possible set of policies, except for all the others? Does anyone think that Israel should consider some sort of apology for its role in creating the Palestinian refugee problem? Does anyone think that Israeli compromise on Jerusalem is desirable? Does anyone think that settlements need to be uprooted for a two-state solution to emerge? Even Alan Dershowitz – America's most famous Israel advocate – regularly speaks out against Israel's settlement policies.

Those voices on the *Israel side* who do believe in a fundamental change to the status quo are hiding in the wings. And those on centre stage are responding to calls for Palestinian independence by handing out Israeli flags.

In the theatre of campus politics, student actors are playing well-rehearsed roles, seeking applause from a bewildered co-student base. I have a feeling, though, that these players may be trapped by the script. They may agree on more than they realize.

Perhaps we can help our Jewish students see that loyalty to Israel and the Jewish people is not inconsistent with a whole range of principles, including criticism and compromise. Campus Hillel has sometimes declared its support for a two-state solution. But the line has not been delivered forcefully.

The more time that passes without a two-state solution, the stronger are the voices among Palestinians and their supporters calling for a binational state – a proposal that would effectively spell the end of Israel as a Jewish state.

What would campus activism look like if the collective actors were engaging in pointed dialogue about the actual issues – settlements, terrorism, recognition, Jeru-

## Values, Ethics, Community

Mira Sucharov



salem, refugees, sovereignty – rather than playing for the Tony award?

Maybe those of us 10, 20, 40 years out of the heady days of campus politics can help these Diaspora groups set the stage for future Israeli-Palestinian compromise. Let's help our students recast the dialogue – even if it means having them throw away the script and improvise – something that requires as much listening as talking. Our students are stuck in a headline-grabbing piece of theatre, though it's a story that, in its current form, may be pointing to a soul-destroying ending.

*Mira Sucharov, an associate professor of political science at Carleton University, is the author of The International Self: Psychoanalysis and the Search for Israeli-Palestinian Peace (State University of New York Press).*



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# JON BRAUN CELEBRATES 20 YEARS AT THE SOLOWAY JCC

BY PAMELA ROSENBERG

You can tell a lot about Jon Braun simply by stepping into his office.

The smiling faces and athletes in action that adorn his famous Wall of Fame tell that he has had a positive impact on many and he is proud of the accomplishments of those he has worked with over the years. The numerous plaques commemorating his trips with young athletes to the Maccabi Games speaks of his dedication, and the wood carving of basketball great Michael Jordan that he proudly shows off, because it was made for him by a young friend, says that the kids value him.

And his Montreal Forum memorabilia tells everyone that despite more than two decades in Ottawa and the odd Spartacus picture on the wall, he remains a 'Habs' fan at heart.

The room, just inside the doors of the gym, is formerly referred to as the gym office, but to generations of aspiring athletes it's a comfortable place to kick back, put up their feet, listen to some 'Springsteen' and shoot the breeze with their good buddy affectionately known to most simply as JB.

Braun has been an integral part of the Jewish Community Centre for 20 years now and in that time has had an amazing impact on many people young and old from all areas and all backgrounds.

Braun's foray into the Ottawa Jewish community came one summer when Greg Richards, Phys Ed Director at the old JCC, gave him a part time job working at Sports Camp and asked him to take a team to the 1988 Maccabi Games in Chicago.

Although Braun's job at the "J." has for the most part been as Manager of Athletics and Leagues, he says he feels like he has had two careers; one at the JCC on Chapel Street and another on the Broadview campus at the Soloway JCC.

"At the old JCC you had 25 men in the old health club, they played racquetball and at night there was always something in the gym. Then we came here and there was a state-of-the-art Fitness Center and an indoor pool and there was a lot of excitement," he says. "It was challenging, we had to restructure the programming, all of a sudden there was the potential for kids six days a week."

While Braun has spent his lifetime playing sports, he doesn't consider himself an elite athlete. For him sports were always just a great way to make friends, see different places, get some air and some culture. It was through his involvement in sports that a young Braun had the opportunity to travel around Montreal and see the different areas that he might never have been exposed to otherwise.

"I always liked the creativity of sport, the art of it," says Braun. "You get to use your imagination. It's not just pounding each other, it's an outlet, and every kid expresses themselves in a different way."

Jeff Polowin (nicknamed 'Legend' by Braun) played JCC Men's Baseball for many years, and according to him Braun is an enormous asset to the Soloway JCC.

"I never met anyone so dedicated; dedicated to what he does, dedicated to the kids no matter what the age," says Polowin. "And 20 years later he is still dedicated."

Leonard Shore shares these sentiments, and says Braun's knowledge of the sports world and its many characters is impressive. "He takes a special interest in our community's athletes, past and present with particular pride in

the youngsters he has coached and mentored through his programs."

One of those youngsters, now a grown man and father of three, is Michael Fathi whose Police Academy Graduation photo adorns the Wall of Fame.

"Jon was very supportive during my years fighting cancer, visiting me often and always cheering me up," recalls Fathi, or 'The Constable' as Braun calls him. "He created a special award for me, Comeback Player of the Year when I had recovered and started playing ball again. That's the kind of guy he is."

For Braun the most rewarding part of the job is being involved with families and becoming like a big brother or a best friend.

"What's neat about working here is that you stick around a while and you see the continuity, you know the grandfather and all the generations. I like to see who's who and what everyone is up to," says Braun. "When they come back here, I want them to feel like it is a home base, you can come into my office and put your feet up. It's like a hub, that's what a JCC should be in a small community."

Summer at the Soloway JCC is an especially exciting time as the place is overflowing with happy

David Slover grew up in Ottawa playing floor hockey at the JCC. He, along with some of his childhood friends now living in Toronto, had put together a softball team. When it came time to pick a name for their team they took the opportunity to honour the man who taught them all about sportsmanship. Their team is called Jon Braun.

Senior Director of Athletics at Ashbury College Bryan MacKinnon worked along side Braun putting together Sports Camp at the old JCC. Following that Braun invited him to help with the Maccabi Jr. Boys' Volleyball teams.

"Despite being overseas for close to 10 years JB has forever remained a lifelong friend. You cannot help but enjoy chatting and hanging out with JB".

Jon Addy and Braun became fast friends back in 1993 at the Chapel Street JCC when Braun offered him a job as Gym Attendant. He attributes much of his success as a university basketball player to Braun.

"Jon provided me with numerous opportunities to improve as a player but also opened my horizons as a person," says Addy. "Being Catholic I had never taken part in any activities involving the Jewish community, and Jon was kind enough to allow me in by being a counsellor at JCC Summer Camps, coach the Maccabi Youth

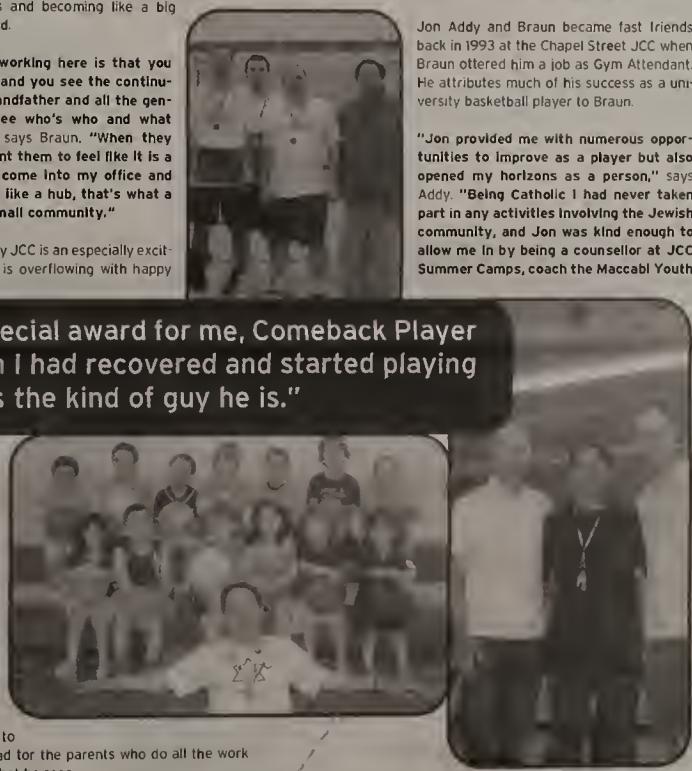
**"He created a special award for me, Comeback Player of the Year when I had recovered and started playing ball again. That's the kind of guy he is."**

children attending Day Camp, Specialty Camps and Travelling Sports Camp. As the Executive Director of SJCC Summer Camps Braun looks forward to spending the season laughing with the kids and sharing their new experiences. He is there to see them master a new skill and is always nearby with a high five. However, according to Braun, he does feel bad for the parents who do all the work and don't get to see what he sees.

"At Travelling Sports Camp I watch the kids all day smiling from ear to ear when they get up on water skis for the first time or ride a horse, or howling with laughter down a waterslide. Then when the parents pick them up and say 'how was your day' and the kid says, 'all right.' That's just not fair."

According to long time buddy Mitch Miller, Braun is committed to the JCC, and he is all about the kids.

"I recall walking into Jon's office and seeing a piece of paper that read Do It for the Kids," says Miller. "That was his motto. It didn't matter the challenges Jon faced at work or home...when the kids walked into his gym, enrolled in his camps, or requested him for a special JCC birthday party...Jon did it for the kids and thankfully still does."



Basketball Team and attend the Maccabi Games. These opportunities helped me develop as a young man and have a better understanding that there is more to the world than my world."

Over the years Braun has become a fixture at the Soloway JCC. He has had an impact on so many people in the Jewish community and beyond and has become a mentor to many. Yet despite all of his triumphs and success in this city, he is still somewhat unfulfilled in one area and continues his search for "a decent smoked meat sandwich on this side of the river."

We are fortunate to have Jon as part of our team and could not imagine the "J" without "JB".

## Finding understanding through interfaith dialogue

**Common Ground:**  
*A Priest and a Rabbi  
Read Scripture Together*  
By Andrew M. Greeley  
and Jacob Neusner  
McGill-Queen's University Press 2008  
Paperback  
335 Pages

How can a rabbi and a priest read scripture together? What does it mean to each of them and how can they learn from each other? These questions are at the root of this newly revised and updated version of a fascinating book of interfaith study.

*Common Ground: A Priest and a Rabbi Read Scripture Together* is a book of relationships.

First, it is about the relationship between Judaism and the Torah, and between Catholicism and the Bible.

Second, it is about the relationship between the readings of both religions of the same Biblical texts; and third, it is about the mutual respect, curiosity and faith that build the relationship between a specific rabbi and a specific priest – Rabbi Jacob Neusner and Father Andrew M. Greeley.

As a result, this book is written for any one of these three audiences: those interested in learning more about Judaism or Catholicism; those interested in advancing interfaith understandings; and those interested in understanding the personal relationships that

### Book Review

**Benita Kuzmanov**

allow fruitful cross-religious dialogue to occur.

In spite of these specific audiences, the book is written in a conversational tone, easily accessible to someone who is not an expert in either the Torah or the Bible.

This accessibility is helped by the structure of the book. After the introduction, the authors offer a basic explanation of how Rabbi Neusner reads Torah within Jewish tradition, followed by an explanation of how Father Greeley reads the Bible within Catholic tradition.

This basic overview leads into chapters on specific topics, episodes or Biblical figures written by one of the authors. Rabbi Neusner tends to write more on the Torah topics, Father Greeley on the Biblical topics, but both comment in interspersed chapters.

This quasi-dialogue approach leads to fascinating views of the similarities and differences in approaches each author takes. It also means that each chapter can be read individually or the work can be read as a whole. In this sense, the book certainly achieves its goal of providing a window into

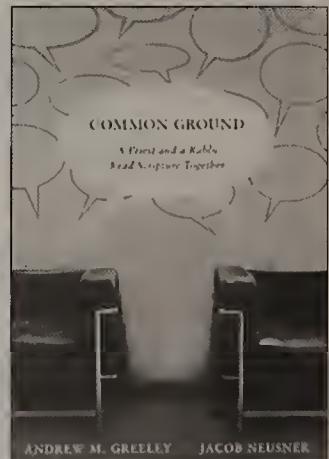
how a rabbi and a priest can talk – really talk – to each other about their respective understandings of their faiths. The book itself models a successful interfaith dialogue and highlights the wonderful relationship the two authors have. In fact, *Common Ground* seems most important when read from this point of view.

The book also illuminates the relationship between each faith and its own scripture. It does this by focusing on the shared roots and understandings of Judaism and Catholicism as well as on the differences that arise in interfaith readings of biblical texts.

While the book is aimed at the similarities in the two religions – the title hints at this bias – basic oppositions in interpretation emerge through the aspects of the texts each author chooses to discuss. In my opinion, this is an important strength of the book and makes *Common Ground* all the more fascinating for the layperson. This strength means the book is also successful at teaching the reader about the relationship between a rabbi and his faith and a priest and his.

Lastly, *Common Ground* is undoubtedly personal to the authors. They appear to make no claims to speak for their religions beyond their authority as a priest and a rabbi. In this sense, they interpret their own holy texts from their own understanding and training.

The personal nature of the book makes it all the more important as it illustrates how each comes to understand their own faith and



then share it with the other. The book is an excellent model for such interfaith dialogue.

I came away with an appreciation of both the passion and humanity with which both Father Greeley and Rabbi Neusner have relationships with their respective scriptures, faiths and each other.

If you are looking for a challenging, yet conversational way of understanding your own faith and others, this is a book to read.

*Benita Kuzmanov is an instructor in the department of law at Carleton University.*

## Ottawa teens attend Friendship Circle conference in Detroit

By Diane Koven  
for Friendship Circle

Thanks to a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, two local teenagers were fortunate enough to travel to Detroit to attend the third annual International Friendship Circle Volunteer Conference.

Emilie Elbaz and Corinne Baray, accompanied by adult co-ordinators Devora Caytak and Sigal Baray, took part in the three-day conference, February 6 to 8, which combined education, Shabbat programming and good, old-fashioned fun.

Created 13 years ago in Detroit, the Friendship Circle matches volunteers with special needs children for social and recreational outings. The children benefit, and so do the families who are given an often much-needed break and some time to focus on other family members.

The original Friendship Circle in Detroit has grown to 1,000 volunteers and the

concept has spread to other parts of the U.S., Canada, Great Britain and Australia. Each Friendship Circle is operated independently by a local Chabad Lubavitch centre. The Ottawa Friendship Circle has enriched the lives of many local Jewish children with special needs.

Corinne Baray has been volunteering with the Friendship Circle for three years and has found the experience very rewarding. She first learned about the Friendship Circle from a speaker at Yitzhak Rabin High School, where she is a student, and began by being a "friend at home," visiting and spending time with a young person with special needs. She is now involved in weekly Hebrew-language tutoring to adults with special needs.

The conference, said Baray, "was amazing." Being with other teenage girls from various cities around the world, learning together, spending time together and having fun



Ottawa delegation at the International Friendship Circle Volunteer Conference last month in Detroit. (Left to right): Teen volunteers Emilie Elbaz and Corinne Baray and adult co-ordinators Sigal Baray and Devora Caytak.

together, was very exciting. There were team-building exercises, leadership workshops and even tobogganing, all designed to bring the girls together for a common purpose.

During the workshops, the participants were given hypothetical situations that they might encounter with

their special needs friends and shared ideas on how to deal with them.

One example, given by Baray, was "what we would do if we were at an ice-cream parlour with our special needs friend and he was taking a very long time deciding which flavour he wanted. The server becomes

impatient and perhaps rude. We shared ideas for various ways to handle the situation, always keeping in mind that the main goal is to make sure our special needs friend is comfortable and feels like an individual, like an everyday human being."

The teens returned to their various centres imbued

with the desire to spread the message of Friendship Circle.

"My biggest responsibility is to make Friendship Circle better known in our community, what it is about and why there is a Friendship Circle, and to bring back all of my experiences to spread the word," said Baray.

'Friendship' is more than just a word in the name of the conference. The participants developed close personal friendships as well.

"I think I made lifelong friendships through this because we all have one thing in common," she said. "We know that we have done something good and have helped someone at the end of the day; and that makes us feel good ourselves."

Baray is now using Facebook to keep in touch with some of the new friends she made at the conference. If given the opportunity, she'd love to attend another Friendship Circle conference, she said.

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Continued on page 24

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**Continued on page 25**

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## I've thought about it and here's what I think

"You think too much," my friend told me  
the other day.

That kind of comment could make someone self-conscious. I mean, how much is too much? And what if, in my striving not too think too much, I don't think enough? Would I forget to breathe? Would I remember how to walk?

I could be heating up some soup on the stove and say to myself, "remember to check the pot in five minutes." That's how long it usually takes to boil a pot of soup on my stove. So I would sit at the kitchen table to be close enough to the soup to react as soon as the soup boiled, but far enough away that I didn't have to think about it all the time.

That would be one way of thinking less. I would do something mindless, like read a book on philosophy, because then I wouldn't have to over-think the boiling soup.

I have actually tried this, but it doesn't work. While I'm mindlessly reading philosophy, nothing goes into my brain. I read words, but the logic is too hard and I have this fear of thinking too much, so I avoid it. Nevertheless, the act of reading tends to make my eyes tired and, without a second thought, I usually fall asleep for 10 minutes.

This is unfortunate. Because the soup has been boiling for five minutes when I wake up and there is actually a lot less of it left. If I have a pleasant dream, I might snooze for 20 minutes. Then I have no soup and a burnt pot. Believe it or not, that has happened to me.

I try to not think too much when I take things out of the fridge. What happens? I leave the door open and my refrigerator cools the entire kitchen. I try to avoid thinking when I put my cell phone, my keys or my wallet down. Astute and observant readers



Humour me,  
please

Rubin  
Friedman

will, by now, know what happens. I can't remember where I put them.

I have made a significant effort to avoid thinking when I fill the car's gas tank by watching the pump metre as the numbers flash. What is the result of all this hard work? I forget to put the gas cap back on.

Last week, I tried not to think in the morning and left without putting out the garbage.

So my significant other says, "You should be more conscious of what you are doing. Think about what you are doing."

Now I really get confused. If I think about what I am doing all the time, wouldn't I be thinking too much?

This is hard because they keep on changing the rules – whoever the 'they' are who are in charge of the rules.

I will have to think this over. Or, maybe to avoid too much thinking, I will simply think it through and get it over with.

OK, I've thought about it and here's what I think. It's not that I think too much. I just think at the wrong moments. My mind is out of sync with what's happening in the world.

But I have no time to talk. My soft-boiled egg is hard-boiled by now and I'd better go up and turn off the stove before it starts burning.

Come to think of it, who has time to think so much?

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Sandra Granatstein  
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### Tilapia with Balsamic Browned Butter

Tilapia is a wonderful fish to serve those guests who claim not to like fish. It is white, moist and mild-flavoured, making it perfect for a variety of recipes. Some call it 'the chicken of the sea.'

4 tilapia fillets (6-8 ounces each)

Kosher Salt

Freshly ground black pepper

1/2 cup all purpose flour

2 tablespoons olive oil

3 tablespoons butter

1/4 cup balsamic vinegar

Season tilapia fillets generously on both sides with salt and pepper. Dredge fish in flour and shake off excess.

Heat olive oil in a large (12-inch) frying pan over medium high heat. Cook fish for about 4 minutes per side.

Remove fish from pan to a large platter and cover loosely with foil to keep fish warm.

Tum heat down to medium and add butter to pan. Cook butter for about 3 minutes, or just until it begins to turn brown.

Stir in balsamic vinegar and continue cooking over high heat until mixture is reduced by half.

Spoon sauce over fish. Serve.



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## Tug of war in the Bahamas

**Made with Love**

**Cindy Feingold**



I recently celebrated a milestone birthday. (Hint: it rhymes with nifty!) One of my sisters subscribes to the *Birthday Week* theory, where you celebrate all week long, not just on the day of your birthday.

That seemed appropriate for this big birthday, so I celebrated with a week-long trip to the Bahamas at the end of February. Including Roger and me, we were a somewhat unruly crew of 18 people. The group included both old and new friends from Toronto and Ottawa.

In the week leading up to the trip, I became somewhat obsessive about the weather at our destination. I began checking the Weather Network website at least twice a day and was not happy with the 10-day forecast calling for showers and somewhat cooler temperatures.

While I know I can't control the weather, I still felt somewhat responsible for providing perfect weather since all those people were coming in honour of my birthday.

About four days before the trip, I discovered that, while I was obsessive, one of my girlfriends also had some psychological issues to deal with. She was so distressed about the forecast that she began searching other weather websites until she could find one that would give her the perfect forecast she desired. Talk about taking denial to a whole new level!

We worried needlessly. The weather turned out to be warm and sunny.

The week was filled with lots of fun and surprises. On our second day, at the end of lunch, the theme music from the Olympics began playing loudly and two of our friends ran in carrying lit tiki torches.

### Roasted Halibut Curry

Serves 4

On our last day in the Bahamas, the chef served us a wonderful chicken curry dish for lunch. Here is a similar version, made with halibut.

This recipe was created by Lucy Waverman. It would be wonderful served with sugar snap peas and some basmati or jasmine rice on the side.

2 tablespoons vegetable oil  
4 plum tomatoes, chopped into 1-inch dice  
1 tablespoon Thai red curry paste  
1 tablespoon lime juice  
1 teaspoon sugar  
1 cup coconut milk  
2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil  
2 tablespoons chopped fresh mint  
Salt and freshly ground black pepper  
1 1/2 pounds halibut

Preheat oven to 450 degrees F. Heat oil in ovenproof skillet over high heat. Add tomatoes and cook until beginning to wilt, about 1-2 minutes. Stir in curry paste, lime juice, sugar and coconut milk and bring to a boil.

Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until sauce thickens slightly, about 5-8 minutes. Stir in half the basil and mint.

Place fish fillets in skillet, spooning a little sauce over them and place skillet in oven.

Bake for 10-15 minutes or until fish is cooked and white juices appear. Garnish with remaining herbs. Serve.

They had planned an entire afternoon of Olympic events. We were divided into two teams. I led the blue team and Roger was the leader of the yellow team. The yellow team's T-shirts were more accurately a mustard colour, so Roger was quickly given the moniker, 'Colonel Mustard.' He was a wonderful colonel, but led his team to defeat.

Our first event was a tug of war.

Imagine if you can, 14 Jewish Type A personalities attempting to organize themselves into a tug of war. There were debates about where the rope should be laid, how to measure the exact middle of the rope, how to determine what constitutes a win, and so on. We were exhausted before we even began. The several non-Jews and Type Bs also present just stood by rolling their eyes at the scene.

After about two minutes of earnest tugging, it became clear the teams were very evenly matched and no one was budging. We were sweating and most of us felt like we were going to pass out. Of course, I'm sure that had nothing to do with the fact that wine had been served at lunch. In the middle of our first event, we had to have a rest period, so someone, wisely, called for a break.

The rest of the events – egg toss, egg on a spoon, kayak races – were much tamer and we managed to survive.

I came away from the week feeling very grateful and blessed to have so many wonderful, loving and caring friends. It was a week I'm sure we will remember for a very long time.

I also came home with some new culinary inspirations. The wonderful food we ate inspired these fish recipes.

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## Understanding the Holocaust through twinning

The practice of *twinning*, bringing two unrelated persons or communities together, has been around for some time. At the height of the campaign to free Soviet Jewry, many North American Bar and Bat Mitzvah children twinned with Jewish kids in the Soviet Union who were denied the right to a religious ceremony. It was a way to further our understanding of the plight of Soviet Jewry.

Twinning has also been used by communities, schools and synagogues in North America to promote understanding of the needs of specific communities, schools and synagogues in Israel and to help them.

In recent years, the practice of twinning has been extended to remembering and honouring Bar and Bat Mitzvah aged children who were victims of the Holocaust. Some of those children survived. Others did not. None were able to celebrate a Jewish coming of age ceremony, whether it was a Bar Mitzvah for the boys or some other ceremony for the girls.

Two Ottawans, Ariela Vardi Ravek and Ian Jason-Byerley, have been profiled in the *Bulletin* over the past year-and-a-half with stories about their Bar and Bat Mitzvahs being twinned with children who died in the Holocaust. Both young people talked about how the experience deepened and personalized their understanding of the Holocaust. Ariela and Ian, like the fictional Laura in the following book, will never forget their *twin* or the Holocaust.

*The Diary of Laura's Twin*  
By Kathy Kacer  
Second Story Press 2008  
202 pages. Ages 9-13.

Canadian psychologist and prize-winning author Kathy Kacer, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, specializes in writing books for children and young adults about the Holocaust. Her goal is to promote the importance of understanding the Holocaust in order to keep its memory alive.

In *The Diary of Laura's Twin*, Kacer vividly depicts the process of growing awareness, understanding and identification between a contemporary child, Laura, and her Holocaust *twin*, Sara, with sensitivity, immediacy and respect for the inner turmoil often experienced by young readers confronting the Holocaust.

How would you feel if, out of the blue, your rabbi assigned you a Holocaust twinning project three weeks before your Bar Mitzvah? Laura feels swamped and more than a little resentful. She doesn't want to do it. She's already learned her *brachot* and Torah portion, completed a *tzedakah* project and studied the Holocaust. She has oodles of homework and assignments for English school, still has to attend to last minute preparations for her party and help with her younger sister.



## Kid Lit

Deanna Silverman

Her rabbi persists. Go talk to Mrs. Mandelcorn, he tells Laura. Then make your decision about twinning.

Surprisingly, the mysterious Mrs. Mandelcorn doesn't have much to say. Instead, she hands Laura the diary of Sara Gittler, a young Polish girl caught up in the Holocaust, and her own English-language translation of it. Sara's diary painstakingly details the lives of her family and friends in the Warsaw Ghetto. As though by osmosis, Sara's fear, helplessness and courage become part of Laura's life.

Now Laura is really unsettled. She's simultaneously flustered at learning so much about a specific victim of the Holocaust and compelled to continue reading Sara's diary. She's increasingly identifying with Sara. After all, the girls are almost the same age. They have similar looks and interests. They each have a younger sister. And they are both Jewish.

Laura's confused feelings are something she can't explain to her parents or to her best friends, Nix and Adam. Amazingly, Adam seems to think it's natural to know the details of individual lives during the Holocaust because his grandfather talks about the Holocaust all the time. As for Nix, who isn't Jewish, she seems to think all anyone has to know about the Holocaust can be learned by reading *The Diary of Anne Frank*.

Meanwhile, events in Laura's real world are impinging on, and intermingling with, the events in Sara's diary. A Jewish cemetery near Laura's school is desecrated and Nix is behaving strangely. Was Nix involved? What happened to Sara? And exactly who is Mrs. Mandelcorn?

*The Diary of Laura's Twin* includes photographs of the Warsaw Ghetto, brief biographies of some of the leaders of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and short descriptions of Bar and Bat Mitzvah twinning ceremonies.

*The Diary of Laura's Twin*, winner of the 2008 National Jewish Book Award for Children's and Young Adult Literature, is another superior Holocaust story, with contemporary overtones, by Kathy Kacer.



By Kathy Kacer

## Mazal Tov!

It's twin boys!

GRANT – Oliver and Amanda are delighted to announce the arrival of Benjamin Simon, followed three minutes later by his identical twin brother, Charlie Ethan, on February 23, 2009. Welcomed with love by grandparents Gina and Howard Grant, and Karen Paul, great-grandparents Edie and Seymour Eisenberg, and uncles Shane Paul and Leo Grant.

For information on how to submit an announcement, contact

Rhoda Saslove-Miller  
613-798-4696, ext. 256

[rsaslovemiller@ottawajewishbulletin.com](mailto:rsaslovemiller@ottawajewishbulletin.com)

## What's happening at Congregation Beth Shalom

Thursday, April 2

Kibbitz Club Seniors' Lunch  
in partnership with Jewish Family Services

Thursday, April 9

Community Passover Seder

Sunday, April 12

Kosher for Passover Lunch Buffet  
Kosher for Passover Dinner Night Out

Monday, April 13

Kosher for Passover Lunch Buffet

Tuesday, April 14

Kosher for Passover Lunch Buffet

Friday, May 1

Shabbat Dinner Series

Watch for more upcoming events. Everyone is Welcome!

For more information, please contact the synagogue  
at 613-789-3501, ext. 223 or [info@bethshalom.ca](mailto:info@bethshalom.ca)  
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Inventory Clearout Sale  
April 26 and May 3, 9-4pm

# WHAT'S GOING ON

## March 23 to April 5, 2009

For more community listings, visit [ottawa.planitjewish.com](http://ottawa.planitjewish.com)



### WEEKLY EVENTS

#### MONDAYS & THURSDAYS

**Motorin' Munchkins**, sponsored by Ganor Preschool, for kids aged 5 and under. Parent/caregiver-supervised playtime in gymnasium with equipment, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 280.

#### TUESDAYS

**Israeli Folkdancing**, learn dances, have fun, no experience necessary. Hillel Academy, 31 Nadolny Sachs Private, 6:30 pm. Info: 613-722-9323.



#### CANDLELIGHTING BEFORE

Mar 27 ⚡ 7:05 pm  
Apr 3 ⚡ 7:15 pm

### FRIDAYS

**Shabbat Shalom**, sponsored by Ganor Preschool, learn about Shabbat through crafts, stories, games and songs. Drop-in program for ages 5 and under. Parent/caregiver must accompany, 9:30 am. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 280.

#### MONDAY, MARCH 23

**Against the Tide** film premiere, sponsored by Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center, narrated by Dustin Hoffman, a compelling documentary of what happened in the U.S. and Canada during the Holocaust, exposing the inaction of the governments of these countries. Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, 7:30 pm. Info: 1-866-864-9735, ext. 29.

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 26

**Lomir Reynh Yiddish**, Yiddish-speaking group hosted by Jewish Family Services, 2255 Carling Avenue, Suite 301, 10:00 am. Info: 613-722-2225, ext. 325.

**Shalom Ottawa**, our community program on Rogers 22, 6:00 pm. (repeated March 28 at 12:00 pm).

### SUNDAY, MARCH 29

**Books and Bagels Series**, sponsored by Temple Israel. *Abraham – A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths* by Bruce Feiler will be discussed by representatives of three religions: Rabbi Steven Garten of Temple Israel; Ruth Sword, a United Church minister and executive secretary of pastoral care in public secondary schools; and Aisha Sherazi, Muslim educator and previous director of the Ottawa Islamic School, 1301 Prince of Wales Drive, 9:30 am. Info: 613-594-4556.

**Kaleidoscope of Jewish Song** by Musica Ebraica, from Rossi of Renaissance Italy to Yiddish and modern Israeli selections, features members of the Ottawa Chamber Orchestra and two original pieces by two local musicians, Temple Israel, 1301 Prince of Wales Drive, 3:00 pm. Info: 613-224-7073.

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 31

**"Gold Party,"** sponsored by Hillel Academy. Community welcome, 31 Nadolny Sachs Private, 2:00 - 5:00 pm and 7:00 - 10:00 pm. RSVP Info: 613-722-2225, ext. 246.

required to 613-722-0020, ext. 323 by March 25.

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

**The Dybbuk**, a play presented by students of Yitzhak Rabin High School, 31 Nadolny Sachs Private, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-727-0420, ext. 343 (repeat performances April 2 at 7:00 pm and April 5 at 2:00 pm).

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 2

**The Kibbutz Club**, sponsored by Jewish Family Services and Congregation Beth Shalom. Luncheon and program: *Passover – Name that Tune*, 151 Chapel Street, 12:00 pm. Info: 613-789-3501, ext. 223.

**Fourth Annual Shalom Bayit Women's Seder**, sponsored by Jewish Family Services of Ottawa. Shalom Bayit seeks to inform, educate and provide resources and raise awareness about family violence in the Jewish community. Silent auction of one-of-a-kind seder plates created by local artists. Congregation Agudath Israel, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 6:00 pm. Info: 613-789-3501, ext. 223.

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 9

## COMING SOON

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8**  
Passover Seder for Students, sponsored by Chabad Student Network of Ottawa, 29 Gilmour Street, 7:00 pm. Info: [rabbichalmb@gmail.com](mailto:rabbichalmb@gmail.com).

**10th Annual Community Seder**, sponsored by Jewish Family Services. Abridged services are designed with younger children and older adults in mind, primarily in English and Hebrew blessings. Central Park Lodge, 2370 Carling Avenue, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-722-2225, ext. 327.

**THURSDAY, APRIL 9**  
Second Seder, sponsored by Congregation Beth Shalom, 151 Chapel Street, 6:45 pm. Info: 613-789-3501, ext. 223.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 14**  
CFHU Passover Lunch, sponsored by Canadian Friends

of Hebrew University, features address by retired Israeli ambassador Yoram Ettinger, Agudath Israel Congregation, 1400 Coldrey Avenue, 12:00 pm. Info: 613-829-3150.

**MONDAY, APRIL 20**  
Community Yom HaShoah Commemoration, 7:00 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 276.

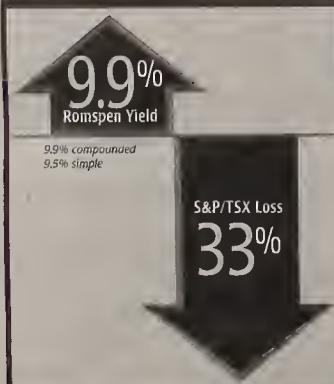
**TUESDAY, APRIL 21**  
National Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony, Parliament Hill, 3:00 pm. Info: 416-785-1333.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29**  
Yom Ha'Atzmaut 2009 celebrating Israel's 61st birthday, Ottawa Civic Centre, 5:00 pm. Info: 613-798-9818, ext. 225.

Unless otherwise noted, activities take place at The Joseph and Rose Ages Family Building, 21 Nadolny Sachs Private.

This information is taken from the community calendar maintained by the Jewish Ottawa InfoCentre. Organizations which would like their events to be listed, no matter where they are to be held, should send the information to InfoCentre coordinator Berita Siemiatycki via e-mail at [bsiemiatycki@jewloshottawa.com](mailto:bsiemiatycki@jewloshottawa.com) or fax at 613-798-4695. She can also be reached by telephone at 613-798-4644. Accurate details must be provided and all events must be open to the Jewish public.

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May their memory be a blessing always.

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For a listing in this column, please call Carolene Preap, 613-798-4696, ext. 232. Voice mail is available.

## BULLETIN DEADLINES

APRIL 7 FOR APRIL 27

APRIL 22 FOR MAY 11\*

MAY 6 FOR MAY 25

MAY 27 FOR JUNE 15

JUNE 30 FOR JULY 20

JULY 29 FOR AUGUST 17

AUGUST 12 FOR SEPTEMBER 7\*

\*Community-wide Issue (all dates subject to change)

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